

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY  
S/S: MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 012786

FOR ALL EMPLOYEES FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER- INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: FAREWELL MESSAGE

AS WE TAKE LEAVE OF ONE ANOTHER, I WANT TO EXPRESS TO EACH  
OF YOU PERSONALLY MY THANKS AND MY ADMIRATION.

MY THANKS, FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN THE  
PRESIDENT AND ME IN WHAT WE HAVE ASPIRED TO DO ON BEHALF  
OF WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. THE PERIOD OF OUR COLLABORATION  
COINCIDED WITH A TIME OF RAPID CHANGE OVERSEAS, AND OF  
CRISIS AT HOME. THAT THE PEACE OF THE WORLD IS NOW MORE  
SURE, THAT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD IS ONCE AGAIN  
UNQUESTIONED, IS DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO YOUR UNWAVERING  
LOYALTY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY.

MY ADMIRATION, FOR YOUR UNSELFISH DEDICATION TO YOUR  
COUNTRY. PUBLIC SERVICE IS JUST THAT: SERVICE TO THE  
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PUBLIC. NONE OF YOU CHOSE A CAREER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR  
WEALTH, FAME OR POWER. NONE OF YOU CHOSE IT BECAUSE IT  
OFFERS A SOFT LIFE. IN TODAY'S WORLD A CAREER IN FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS INVOLVES NOT ONLY HARD AND UNDRAMATIC WORK, OFTEN  
IN A DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT, BUT REAL PHYSICAL DANGER -- AS  
WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL FROM THE LOSS OF FIVE OF OUR  
COLLEAGUES IN AS MANY YEARS.

WHAT LIES BEHIND THIS DEVOTION TO PUBLIC SERVICE IS ULTIMATELY A SENSE OF DEDICATION TO THE HIGH IDEALS ON WHICH OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED AND TO WHICH IT REMAINS DEDICATED. THESE ARE IDEALS WHICH THE BICENTENNIAL -- BEHIND THE CELEBRATION, THE FIREWORKS AND THE TALL SHIPS - MADE EACH OF US THINK ABOUT AT LEAST A LITTLE. AS ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS, THOMAS JEFFERSON, SAID NEAR THE END OF HIS LIFE, "THE FLAMES KINDLED ON THE 4TH OF JULY, 1776, HAVE SPREAD OVER TOO MUCH OF THE GLOBE TO BE EXTINGUISHED BY THE FEEBLE ENGINES OF DESPOTISM; ON THE CONTRARY, THEY WILL CONSUME THESE ENGINES AND ALL WHO WORK THEM."

IN TODAY'S MORE COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS WORLD, WE FACE, AS MUCH AS EVER, THE CHALLENGE THAT WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN, JEFFERSON AND THE OTHER FOUNDERS OF OUR COUNTRY FACED: WHETHER FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, EXPRESSION AND WAY OF LIFE CAN BE MAINTAINED OR WHETHER WE MUST LIVE UNDER DESPOTISM. IT IS ONLY BY THE TRADITION OF UNSELFISH PUBLIC SERVICE THAT DEMOCRACIES SUCH AS OURS CAN LIVE AND THAT FREEDOM IN THE WORLD CAN SURVIVE.

AMERICA IS MORE, TO ITSELF AND TO THE WORLD, THAN A NATION, AN ECONOMY, A SOCIETY, OR A PEOPLE. WE HAVE WITHIN US, MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, THE ELEMENTS OF REGENERATION, OF CHANGE, OF EVOLUTION. WE HAVE THAT BECAUSE WE ARE FREE; OUR DIRECTION AND OUR PURPOSE FLOW FROM THE PEOPLE TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND ARE EMBODIED

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THERE. THERE ARE MANY NATIONS IN THE WORLD IN WHICH PRIMACY FLOWS FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE, BUT NONE HAS OUR INNATE STRENGTH. NONE CAN MATCH THE DETERMINATION AND DEDICATION WHICH FREEDOM INSPIRES IN AMERICANS.

SO WE NEED NOT FEAR FOR THE FUTURE. YOU WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE VITAL WORK OF CONDUCTING AND MANAGING OUR RELATIONS WITH A CHANGING AND HOSTILE WORLD NEED FEAR NOTHING BUT COMPLACENCY. THE REMARK OF ANOTHER GREAT AMERICAN, THAT "ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY", IS MORE TRUE TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. FOR YOU WHO REPRESENT US IN THE WORLD, THERE ARE FEW OBSERVATIONS MORE APPROPRIATE -- NOR IS THERE MUCH NEED TO REMIND YOU OF THAT.

IN CONCLUSION I WANT TO EXPRESS A WORD OF CONFIDENCE. I LEAVE THIS DEPARTMENT IN THOROUGHLY CAPABLE HANDS. DURING MY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON I HAVE

COME TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS NO MORE DEDICATED OR  
COMPETENT GROUP OF PUBLIC SERVANTS THAN THE MEMBERS OF  
THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AND I  
CAN THINK OF NO AMERICAN MORE QUALIFIED TO LEAD THEM  
THAN MY SUCCESSOR. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL GIVE HIM THE  
SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME AND THAT TOGETHER YOU WILL  
ENJOY THAT UNIQUE HONOR OF SERVING YOUR COUNTRY, CON-  
FIDENT -- AS FEW OTHERS IN THE WORLD CAN BE -- THAT IN  
SO DOING YOU ARE SERVING THE HIGHEST IDEALS OF OUR  
CIVILIZATION.

KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, OGEN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
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